



OFFICIAL BALLOT DROP BOX FAQs

The County of San Diego Registrar of Voters (ROV) will offer new self-serve ballot drop boxes throughout the county, starting with the November 2022 election.

Voters can use the [Official Ballot Drop Box Locator Map](#) to find their nearest drop box(es) and/or the [Official Ballot Drop Box Locations Listing](#) for address and hours information.



What is a ballot drop box?

A ballot drop box is a secure and locked receptacle where a voter can drop their vote-by-mail ballot in the same way they would at a mailbox. Ballots are picked up on a regular basis by an ROV ballot retrieval team. Ballot envelopes should be signed and sealed before deposited into the ballot drop box.

What days are the Official Ballot Drop Boxes available?

Ballot drop boxes are opened/unlocked for use starting October 10 and closed/locked on Election Day, November 8 at 8:00 p.m., providing voters 30 days of access.

What hours are the Official Ballot Drop Boxes available?

Indoor Official Ballot Drop Boxes are available during a facility's normal operating hours. Outdoor Official Ballot Drop Boxes are available 24 hours or online posted hours, if locked behind a gate, through 8 p.m. on Election Night. Election Day hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at all non-24-hour Official Ballot Drop Box locations.

What many ballots fit in an Official Ballot Drop Box?

2400

How often are the ballots picked up?

Most of the Official Ballot Drop Boxes will be picked up daily, including multiple times on Election Day. Some rural routes will be picked up every 2-3 days.

Who picks up the ballots?

ROV ballot retrieval teams with background clearance use a chain of custody procedure to securely transport the ballots to the ROV.

How secure are the new Official Ballot Drop Boxes?

The boxes are constructed from high grade, heavy gauge stainless steel with double-locking access doors, anti-pry door jambs and other anti-theft construction measures.

Why are new ballot drop boxes used?

California law requires all registered voters to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. The new ADA compliant ballot drop boxes offer voters greater security, flexibility, access, and convenience when casting their vote. Once a voter receives their ballot they can return it by mail, at an Official Ballot Drop Box or at a Vote Center.

How are the Official Ballot Drop Box locations determined?

Locations are selected by the ROV using public input and the [California Voter's Choice Act siting criteria](#).

What responsibility does host facility have after an Official Ballot Drop Box is installed?

The installation, opening, closing, ballot retrieval, maintenance and upkeep is the sole responsibility of the ROV. The host facility is asked to report electioneering, vandalism, damage, or other issues using the ROV number printed on the drop box.

What if someone drops something other than a ballot in the Official Ballot Drop Box?

The slot used to return ballots is designed to make it difficult to insert anything other than an envelope into the slot. Any mail incorrectly placed in the ballot drop box is forwarded to the USPS. Any item intended for the host facility is returned to the facility by ROV ballot retrieval teams.

What should the facility do if they receive a ballot after hours (i.e., slid under the door, deposited in book drop, etc.)?

The facility staff should deposit the ballot in the Official Ballot Drop Box immediately.

Is voter assistance available at the Official Ballot Drop Boxes?

In-person services are offered throughout the county at the ROV, 11-day and 4-day Vote Centers, starting October 10, October 29, and November 5, respectively.

Will stickers be available at the Official Ballot Drop Box locations?

No, a sticker is provided with the ballot mailed to the voter.

Will replacement envelopes be available at the Official Ballot Drop Box locations?

No, the voter should contact the ROV at (858) 565-5800 for a replacement envelope or replacement ballot, if needed.

What if voters have additional questions not answered in these FAQs?

The voter should check sdvote.com or contact the ROV at (858) 565-5800.